

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's Attorney Kent Daniels on February 14, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Amended claim 19, line 1, "adapted to" has been replaced with "configured to".

Amended claim 19, line 4, "adapted to" has been replaced with "configured to".

2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant's Attorney: In Figure 2, element d, reference numeral "20" has been added.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In claims 1, 11 and 19, the prior art does not disclose:

Defining a respective serial restriction group identifying nodes of the weighted graph that are subject to each subset sequence constraint, wherein the at least one subset sequence constraint includes a strong constraint in which a path cannot allowably extend through any two pairs of consecutive nodes in the

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serial restriction group, in combination with other limitations set forth in the respective claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to CHIRAG G. SHAH at telephone number (571)272-3144.

/Chirag G Shah/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2619